

SAR - PWS - Interests - Employment

Comment # Comment

0034590-001

As a business owner of a kayak company and resident of Valdez, I have been active in the revision process for the last few years. I was surprised to see that my past comments will not effect the new plan by the Forest Service. Along with many other local residents, kayakers, boat owners and clients, I want to see the pristine estuaries and bays of Prince William Sound protected. Here in Valdez non-motorized recreationalists have been forced to make compromise after compromise with the snowmachiners and helicopter permitters.

If the latest preferred alternative draft is adopted as is by the US Forest Service, Anadyr Adventures will have no wilderness shoreline left to take their clients that is reasonably close to Valdez. Our most popular camping trips are from Heather Bay to Valdez. If the current plan is adopted, there will not be any shoreline designated as non motorized along any of our kayaking routes, and none within 30 miles of Valdez.

Sawmill Bay for example, besides being a state marine park and a sanctuary for many marine birds, terrestrial and marine mammals and a favorite destination with local boaters. The bay is protected by wind and wave and has excellent anchorages. It also has tent platforms for kayakers. Not only is this bay one of the prettiest places on the eastern side of the sound but is also a haven for boaters and kayakers alike where we can pursue quite sports such as hiking/fishing, kayaking and wildlife watching. If the forest service adopts the current plan Sawmill Bay will become motorized, helicopters will be allowed to land there. Even if helicopters land high on the mountain side, the mountain surrounding Sawmill act like an amphitheaters creating uncomfortable noise pollution. You only have to visit Shoup Glacier on a cruise ship day to know how bad it can be.

0036228-001

I am starting a sailing, hiking, skiing, and kayak business on my property on Latouche Island. I will be interested in the requirements for guiding on Forest Service land for a couple dozen people per year, starting in 2001 or so.

I'm particularly interested in the freeze for commercial uses of the forest, and the future conditions for getting a guiding permit. I don't plan on taking any clients into the forest in 2001, but will want that option in 2002. We are considering the purchase of the Lethcoe's business on Growler Island.